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School of Diplomacy and International Relations

Fall 2008

The Politics of Terrorism

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The Politics of Terrorism
DIPL 4280 Fall 2008
Date and Time: Mondays 5:45 – 8:15 p.m.
Corrigan Hall Room 82

Instructor:

Ambassador S. Azmat Hassan (Ret.)

Adjunct Professor

E-mail: hassanaz@shu.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course description and objectives:

The course will commence with an in depth study of the David J Whittaker edited “The Terrorism Reader”. This is one of the best Readers currently available for its depth and scope. The second part of the course will see us studying Akbar Ahmed’s new book “Islam Under Siege.” which has attracted very favorable reviews. The course will conclude with a study of “After Terror” edited by Akbar Ahmed and Brian Forst.

I will give my own insights on international terrorism, based on my involvement with this issue in 1992-94 as Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for foreign affairs and defense matters.

I will circulate articles from newspapers and magazines relevant to the course. I also expect all students to share material they have found relevant with me for onward transmission to the class. Credit will be given to those students who can cite relevant books and articles during class discussions. The careful reading and absorption of the material will advance the understanding and comprehension of students about international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Course Strategy:

The best strategy for students to do well in the course is to complete all reading assignments before hand, come punctually to class, listen attentively to my lectures and **take notes**. I want an interactive class, asking questions and making comments.

Class participation will count towards the grade. If any points discussed in the class are not clear to any student she/he should not hesitate to approach

me either after the class or during office hours by appointment. I can also be reached by email. I hope that by the end of the course all students will have a comprehensive grasp of different facets of international terrorism.

Course Materials:

Compulsory Reading:

1. The Terrorism Reader Edited by David J. Whittaker
2. Islam Under Siege by Akbar Ahmed
3. After Terror edited by Akbar Ahmed & Brian Forst

Background Reading:

1. Terror in the Name of God by Jessica Stern (fairly new, great insights)
2. No End to War: Terrorism in the 21st Century by Walter Lacquer (new, by a veteran expert of terrorism)
3. Terrorism: Theirs and Ours by Eqbal Ahmed (brilliant man, brilliant pamphlet)
4. Real Terror Network: Terrorism in Fact and Propaganda by Edward Herman(good perspectives)
5. The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States
6. There are innumerable articles on terrorism in journals and on the internet. I encourage students to locate these and study those that are of relevance.

Course Activities:

- Lectures
- Examination
- Term Paper
- Class Presentations
- Class Discussion

Course requirements and grading:

1. There will be a final examination based on essay type questions which will constitute 40% of the grade.
2. A well developed research paper which will constitute 40% of the grade. The research paper will make an in depth analysis of the topic selected after its approval by me. The paper should be not less than **12** pages (not including the cover page and bibliography) and no more than **16** typed double spaced pages. Only hard copies of papers are acceptable. Please **do not** send me your papers by email as they will not be considered by me. A one paragraph abstract of the topic will be proposed by the student and approved by the Instructor. The topic should be submitted to me in hard copy by **Monday, October 6**. An approved topic cannot be changed. If a paper is submitted on any topic other than the one approved, it will receive 0 points and result in the student failing the course. The paper is due on **Monday, November 10**. If the paper is not submitted by the deadline, **2 points per every late day** will be deducted from the grade. If the paper has not been submitted **within 7 days** of the expiry of the deadline, **i.e. by 5pm on Monday, November 17**, the student will get 0 points and forfeit 40% of the grade. Regrettably, this essentially means failing the course. If the paper is submitted between November 11 and November 17, please have it date-stamped by Mrs. Susan Malcolm, Secretary of the Whitehead School.
3. Class presentations by the students on the paper written by them and participation and attendance throughout the course will constitute 20% of the grade. All students are **required** to attend the class presentations.

Grading:

To get a good grade all students are advised to concentrate equally on the research paper and final exam. For the paper, I give credit for sustained efforts to locate appropriate material on the chosen topic from scholarly books and journals, and to analyze and present it in an effective manner. The writing of the paper should not be left to the last minute as this will inhibit your performance. Similarly, for the final exam, well formulated answers demonstrating knowledge and insights about the subject will earn a good grade. Students who work conscientiously throughout the semester in comprehending the material will find their efforts rewarded.

General Comments:

I expect all students to perform to the maximum of their ability. Cultivation of good study habits will contribute to the achievement of this goal. These are **punctuality** and **regularity** in attendance, concentration in class, taking of lecture notes by hand and **not** on the laptop, regular and methodical study, turning in the research paper on time and not trying to do a rushed last minute job. Submission of the research paper is necessary for the student to participate in the class presentation. Attendance of all students in the two class presentations is mandatory. Absentees will be penalized.

I strongly **discourage** my students from using their laptops during my lecture because it distracts them from comprehending the material under study. They cannot achieve their potential grade. Regular attendance will be counted towards class participation.

Absence from the final exam will result in 0 points for that examination. No make up will be given. Dates for the Final examination cannot be changed. All students are requested to undertake travel **after** taking their Final examination.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1: September 8 : General Introduction about the parameters of the course - explanation of syllabus, grading, readings. Why we must be aware of international terrorism. How the course will improve the students' comprehension of world affairs.

Week 2: September 15: Whittaker: Characteristics of terrorism. pp1-38

Week 3: September 22: Whittaker: Terrorism case studies pp 39-100

Week 4: September 29: Whittaker: Terrorism case studies pp 101- 162

Week 5: October 6: Whittaker: Terrorism case studies pp 163 - 252

Week 6: October 13 : Whittaker: Prevention and control of terrorism pp 253-293

Week 7: October 20: Akbar Ahmed : pp 1- 104

Week 8: October 27: Akbar Ahmed: pp 105 -172

Week 9: November 3 : After Terror : pp 1 - 54

Week 10: November 10: After Terror : pp 55 - 118

Week 11: November 17: After Terror : pp 119 - 190

Week 12: November 24: Class Presentations

Week 13: December 1: Class Presentations

Week 14: December 8: Review of material for final exam. This is a good opportunity to clarify questions about the final exam.

Week 15: The Final Examination will be held on Monday, December 15 in the usual classroom from 5.45 – 7. 15 pm.

Good Luck in your course!